(a) whether it is true that India and Mongolia have signed a five year plan for co-operation in Agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement and benefits coming out of it may be furnished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) An Agreement for cooperation in the field of agriculture between the Government of India and the Government of Mongolia was signed on 16th September, 1996. The Agreement provides for Scientific Technical and Economic cooperation in various areas of agriculture. The Agreement also provides for Work Plans to be drawn up by mutual agreement containing specific proposals/activities to be taken up for implementation under the Agreement. A Work Plan for cooperation in the field of agriculture between the Government of India and the Government of Mongolia was signed on 28th January, 2000 for the period 2000—2005. The Work Plan contains proposals for exchange of seed samples; exchange of scientific and technical information; training of Mongolian Specialists in India and study visits of Indian Specialists to Mongolia in various fields of agriculture; setting up direct contacts between agricultural research institutions of the two countries, etc.

Under the Work Plan India would be able to obtain seed samples for cold resistant and early maturing wheat, buck — wheat, barley, cold desert grasses, vegetables & fruits, potato varieties, send Indian Specialists to Mongolia to study cultivation of cold resistant and early maturing wheat; cultivation of soyabean and production of vegetable oils, sheep milk processing; exchange scientific and technical information in the field of agriculture, etc.

Global Co-operation in Agriculture

1526. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in the field of agriculture global co-operation is not sufficient considering our dependence on Agriculture to a great extent;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) what major steps Government have taken or propose to take towards greater international co-operation and understanding with other countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) India has taken effective steps for global cooperation in the field of agriculture. Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with 31 countries for bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture including phytosanitary and veterinary agreements. The objective of bilateral Agreements/MOUs is to exchange experiences of agricultural development between countries and to extend mutual benefit and cooperation for each other's development.

The Agreements on Plan Quarantine and Plant Protection and in the Veterinary field aim, *inter-alia,* at the prevention of the penetration and spreading of quarantine pests, plant diseases and weeds and spread of infective diseases on the territories of both the countries while trading in agricultural products, animals, animal products, raw materials of animal origin and animal feed. These kind of agreements facilitate development of India's trade in agricultural and veterinary products with these countries.

India is an active member of several international organisations, such as, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Food Programme etc. India is also a beneficiary of the programmes of all these organisations.

Food Processing Industries in Orissa

1527. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the lack of Food Processing Industries in the country particularly in the Eastern States;

(b) whether these units are microscopic in number in State like Orissa;

(c) if so, the steps to set up adequate number of Food Processing units in Orissa and other States where these units are very inadequate in number; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI